
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2021

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Iowa State Patrol

Purpose and History

The Iowa State Patrol was created by the 46th General Assembly in 1935 with 53 safety patrol officers. In the late 1990s, the State Patrol had as many as 455 sworn peace officers and approximately 357 were considered “road troopers.” As of October 24, 2017, there were 362 enforcement officers in the State Patrol. This includes 253 troopers, six trooper pilots, five canine handlers, and 10 motor carrier safety officers. There are currently 13 field district State Patrol posts across Iowa in addition to the Vehicle Theft Unit and Post 16 stationed at the State Capitol Complex. There are 33 sergeants and 11 lieutenants at the 13 State Patrol posts.

Funding

Between FY 1982 and FY 1995, the State Patrol was funded directly from the Road Use Tax Fund. From FY 1996 to FY 1999, the State Patrol was funded from motor vehicle use tax receipts and in part from General Fund appropriations. Since FY 2000, the State Patrol has been funded from the State General Fund.

The State Patrol General Fund appropriation comprises approximately 66.0% of the total Department of Public Safety (DPS) General Fund appropriations. In addition, the State Patrol may, at the discretion of the Commissioner, receive funding from either State or federal asset forfeiture funds, based on the availability of moneys in either account. These funds have traditionally been used for the purchase of equipment. The State Patrol also receives federal money through programs such as the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s traffic safety programs.

For FY 2018, the State Patrol has approximately \$1.1 million budgeted for vehicle depreciation to purchase approximately 48 cars per year, or about 15.0% of the fleet. Historically, the State Patrol has tried to limit using vehicles with over 100,000 miles, although recent State Vehicle Dispatch guidelines require enforcement vehicles to be driven 108,000 miles before auction. However, in order to balance the need against the level of funding, the State Patrol has been extending vehicle mileage to 120,000. In one year, the average trooper will drive approximately 30,000 miles. The total miles driven in one calendar year by the State Patrol averages approximately 9.8 million miles, using approximately 615,000 gallons of fuel. The DPS does not pay State or federal taxes at the pump.

The State Patrol also has seven airplanes. There is no depreciation account established for the purchase of airplanes. The lifespan of a typical State Patrol airplane averages 10,000 hours, or approximately 15 years. The State Patrol also budgets approximately \$115,000 for aviation fuel and maintenance. Three of the seven airplanes presently exceed 8,000 hours and will need to be replaced over the next two to

More Information

Department of Public Safety – Iowa State Patrol: dps.state.ia.us/ISP
LSA Staff Contact: Christin Mechler (515.281.6561) christin.mechler@legis.iowa.gov

three years.

Cost of an Additional State Trooper

In FY 2017, the estimated cost of an additional State trooper, including equipment, weapons, and car, was \$168,700. The ongoing cost of the trooper for salary and benefits, travel, fuel, depreciation, and a cell phone was \$97,800.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [80](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [661](#)

Budget Unit Number

5950R750001

1128642